

Fund Accounting

Legal Compliance and Financial Management

To ensure legal compliance and financial management for the various restricted revenues and program expenditures, the City's accounting and budget structure is segregated into various funds. This approach is unique to the government sector. Fund accounting segregates functions and activities into separate self-balancing funds that are created and maintained for specific purposes; for example, Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the expenditure of restricted revenues, while Enterprise Funds account for self-sustaining "business" related activities for which a fee is charged to cover all costs associated with that business. The General Fund is the City's chief operating fund and is used to account for all financial resources, except those that are legally required to be accounted for in another fund.

Fund Accounting - Fund Types

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The City, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

The **General Fund** is the primary operating fund of the City. It exists to account for the resources devoted to finance the services traditionally associated with local government. Included in these services are police and fire protection, parks and recreation, planning and economic development, general administration of the City, and any other activity for which a special fund has not been created.

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes. The City maintains the following four Special Revenue Funds: Transportation Fund, Preservation Privilege Tax, Special Programs, and Grants.

Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest which are not serviced by the General, Special Revenue, and Enterprise Funds. It does not include contractual obligations accounted for in the individual funds.

Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations, including debt service, which are financed and operated similarly to private businesses, where the intent is that the service is self-sufficient, with all costs supported predominantly by user charges. The City maintains three Enterprise Funds to account for Water & Sewer, Solid Waste, and Aviation activities. Internal Service Funds are used to account for the financing, on a cost-reimbursement basis, of commodities or services provided by one program for the benefit of other programs within the City. The City maintains two Internal Service Funds to account for Fleet and Self-Insurance activities.

Trust Funds are used to administer resources received and held by the City as the trustee or agent for others. Use of these funds facilitates the discharge of responsibility placed upon the City by virtue of law or other similar authority.

Capital Improvement Funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities. The City maintains several Capital Project funds to ensure legal compliance and financial management for various restricted revenues.

Fund Accounting

Examples of restricted revenue funds are:

Bond Capital Funds – used to account for bond proceeds to be used only for approved bond projects.

Transportation Privilege Tax Capital Fund – used to account solely for transportation projects.

Grant Capital Funds – used to account for the proceeds of capital grants.

Enterprise Capital Funds – used to account for utility rates and development fees for specific projects.

Unrestricted General Capital Fund – used to account for transfers-in from the General Fund and for any other activity for which a restricted revenue fund has not been created.